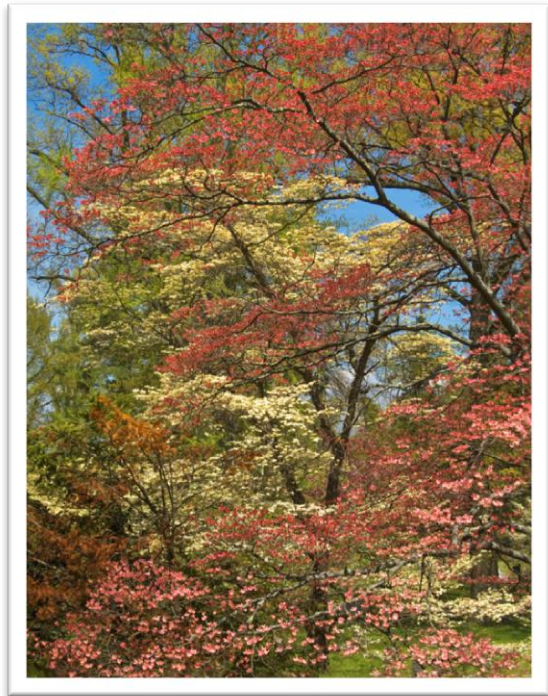


**Kentucky
Environmental Quality Commission**

***Earth Day Awards Ceremony
April 11, 2014***

**Berry Hill Mansion
700 Louisville Road
Frankfort, Ky.**



Dogwoods at the Frankfort Cemetery
Photograph courtesy of Merle Wasson

**The Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission
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EQC is a seven-member citizen advisory board created under state law in 1972. Its mission is to facilitate public dialog on issues, monitor trends and conditions, promote partnerships to improve and protect the environment for future generations. Also, it advises state officials on environmental matters and hosts public awareness, responsibility and positive action toward a healthy environment.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Arnita Gadson, Executive Director

Welcome and Introduction of EQC Commissioners

Mark Grisham, Chair, Paducah, Ky.

Steve Coleman, Vice Chair, Frankfort, Ky.

Tom Herman, Louisville, Ky.

Martha Tarrant, Lexington, Ky.

Scott R. Smith, Lexington, Ky.

Jason DeLambre, Frankfort, Ky.

Ron Brunty, Whitesburg, Ky.

and

Introduction of Kentucky Energy and Environment

Cabinet Secretary

Dr. Leonard K. Peters

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Dr. Leonard K. Peters

Heather McTeer Toney

Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission

Earth Day Speaker 2014



Heather McTeer Toney was appointed by President Barack Obama as Regional Administrator for EPA's Southeast Region in January 2014.

Prior to coming to the region, she served as the first African-American and first female to serve as Mayor of Greenville, Mississippi from 2004-2012. Most recently she served as Executive Director of the Center for Excellence in Student Learning and TRIO programs at Mississippi Valley State University. A true daughter of the Mississippi Delta, Mrs. Toney was born and raised in Greenville, the daughter of a civil rights attorney, and a public school teacher. While many of her friends were leaving Mississippi, upon graduating from college, she returned home to work as a member of McTeer & Associates Law Firm.

Throughout her legal career, she has handled a diverse group of cases ranging from employment discrimination to medical malpractice and was well versed in the corporate political arena. It was while working in Greenville, that she realized how many community needs were unattended. In 2003, she was elected Mayor of the City of Greenville and re-elected for a second term in 2007.

Under her leadership, the city thrived, emerged from significant debt, and received millions of dollars in grants and federal assistance. Additionally during her tenure as mayor, Greenville completed major infrastructure projects, and involved the community in numerous health and wellness initiatives throughout the city; focusing on local health, wellness, and women's issues. She also served as an advocate, speaking out against domestic violence, unfair legislation and labor practices in the State of Mississippi.

In her new role, Mrs. Toney is responsible for protecting human health and the environment in the eight southeastern states, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee, as well as six federally recognized tribes; making Region 4 the most populated and diverse of ten regions. In addition, she leads efforts to maintain and enhance the quality of work life for Region 4's approximately 1,000 employees while effectively managing a budget of more than \$500 million.

As Regional Administrator for the southeastern United States, she will focus on advancing the Administration's priorities of protecting human health and the environment, including:

making a visible difference in communities across the country; addressing climate change and improving air quality; taking action on toxics and chemical safety; protecting water; a precious and limited resource; launching a new era of state, tribal and local partnerships; embracing EPA as a high performing organization; and working toward a sustainable future.

Using these priorities as a guide, Mrs. Toney will continue to address many critical and complex regional challenges, internally and externally. Historically the Region has advanced several important issues and continues to lead national implementation of Agency policies and guidance.

Mrs. Toney is active in her community and an advocate for women's issues, environmental health and education. A sought after speaker, and sponsor for healthy children and women she has travelled extensively internationally, having visited more than 10 countries, including Kenya, France, Martinique, Nigeria and Senegal.

She has received numerous award and honors and has appeared on news outlets such as CNN, Fox News, MSNBC and C-Span. She has been featured in The Washington Post, Jackson Clarion Ledger, Jet Magazine, Marie Claire, Essence Magazine and The Mississippi Business Journal. She is also a published author in, Voices of Historical and Contemporary Black American Pioneers Vol. 2. Mrs. Toney was featured in the May 2005 issue of Essence Magazine as one of the "50 Most Remarkable Women in the World."

Mrs. Toney earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Spelman College in Atlanta. She earned her law degree from the Tulane University School of Law. She has held and continues to hold several notable positions. She is a member of the Mississippi Bar Association, the Magnolia Bar Association, the Washington County Bar Association, and alumni of the Young Elected Officials Network. She also served as past president of the National Conference of Black Mayors, and as past chair of the EPA Local Government Advisory Committee.

She enjoys reading, and is an avid runner, having completed a marathon, triathlon and numerous other races. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and an active member of New Living Way Christian Fellowship church in Greenville.

Mrs. Toney credits her parents, Victor and Mercidees McTeer, as the catalysts for her commitment to advocacy and community service. She is married to Dexter Toney and they have two children.

Presentation of EQC Earth Day Awards
Executive Director Arnita Gadson
Administrator Heather McTeer Toney
Secretary Len Peters
EQC Commissioners

Floyds Fork Environmental Association

Louisvillians used to swim and fish in Floyd's Fork but activities like these are no longer recommended in this waterway due to contamination. The stream, which passes through several Kentucky counties, has been declared unsafe for these uses by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Before the federal government took an interest in its quality, medical technologist Teena Halbig and histotechnologist Sheron Lear founded the Floyd's Fork Environmental Association to clean up a waterway that had become a dumping ground.

Over a period of 22 years, the group has:

- Removed 120 tons of tires, appliances, shingles, 55-gallon drums and other trash from the creek. Sponsored an annual canoeing event known as the Floyds Fork Creek Sweep, to focus on the clean-up.
- Alerted regulators to problems at Jeffersontown Wastewater Treatment regarding overflows and illegal bypasses. Now the plant is scheduled to be demolished and its flow rerouted.
- Successfully lobbied for the retirement of other small sewer package plants along Floyd's Fork
- Fought for improved speaking rules before the Metropolitan Sewer District board to facilitate increased participation from the general public

- Scrutinized an unlined lagoon in a karst environment
- Served on a technical advisory committee with U.S. EPA and Kentucky Division of Water, regarding nutrients and pathogens in Floyd's Fork

Because pathogens are microscopic, Floyd's Fork Environmental Association initiated conversation on hormones in the creek. FFEA's outreach activities go beyond the annual Floyd's Fork Sweep clean-up event to include field trips for schoolchildren, bike and hike events and bird-watching walks.

The work of Halbig, Lear, and countless volunteers, have resulted in changed policies and increased awareness of rampant development.

Tina Ward-Pugh

By founding a sustainability committee in Louisville Metro government and starting a website called Green Triangle, this councilwoman leads the way in green thinking. Due to her extensive committee work, she has a deep understanding of stormwater and its impact on urban streams.

That's why she serves on the Metropolitan Sewer District's Wet Weather Team Stakeholder Group.

One long block in her district had drainage and massive ice problems due to road contours and erosion on hillsides. Ward-Pugh arranged a green solution of re-contouring the roadbed, and adding two rain gardens to absorb the heavy rain-shed, solving all problems more efficiently. This project became a model solution for the entire community.

Volunteers in her district started a one-acre community garden called Billy Goat Hill, on the site of a former landfill. That effort extended to the development of a tree canopy master plan for Frankfort Avenue, to include the planting of 24 urban appropriate trees.

Ward-Pugh forged partnerships with entities such as the Frankfort Avenue Business Association to address storm water problems and leverage district wide recycling and waste disposal ideas in Crescent Hill, Clifton, Butchertown, Irish Hill and others.

She has expanded walking and biking trails, public green spaces and promoted composting and energy-saving practices in construction and renovation in housing. Her sustainability committee addresses matters such as alternative energy, recycling, mass transit, greenways, brownfields, and air pollution. Her Green Triangle website will be managed by the city's Office of Sustainability to spread its ideas citywide.

Partners: Frankfort Avenue Business Association, Olmstead Conservancy, Metro Parks Foundation, Library Foundation, the Partnership for Creative Economics, the Fund for the Arts and 21st Century Parks Trust

The Green Institute

To change the way people think, first you must change their discussion. The Green Institute is tackling that assignment by promoting a common language of eco-literacy around topics such as:

- Water conservation and management
- Smart and efficient city planning & policy
- Waste reduction, recycling & creative reuse
- Preservation, restoration and remediation
- Green architecture, design and building
- Storm water runoff and storm water pollution
- The urban heat island

Business and community leaders take the 12-week class. Their homework results in community projects such as:

Rain gardens, downspout disconnections, community gardens, enhanced recycling, radio ads promoting sustainable practices and events, local foods in school lunch programs, a community kitchen, a bicycle/pedestrian greenway connecting multiple urban neighborhoods, reducing the heat island through tree plantings, solar hot water demonstration and development of a neighborhood weatherization squad.

The effort operates under the umbrella of a non-profit called the Center for Neighborhoods, directed by Lisa Dettlinger and facilitated by Ben Evans.

Partners: The Green Building and Gil Holland, Louisville Bioneers, New Roots, 15,000 Farmers, TARC, The Green Triangle initiative, Transition Louisville, JCPS Environmental Education, Get Outdoors Kentucky, the Urban Design Studio, Louisville Climate Action Network, the Green Building Council, My Green Kentucky Home, Lots of Food, Breaking New Grounds, Lock Up Lead, MisLEAD, Preservation Louisville, Good Garbage, Cultivating

Connections, Fresh Start, Bernheim Forest, Metropolitan Sewer District, Dropseed Nursery, Olmstead Parks, Louisville Bio-Diesel Cooperative, Louisville Tree Commission, Bike Louisville, Louisville Downtown Development Corporation, Louisville Housing Authority, New Directions Housing Corporation, Louisville Independent Business Alliance, Metro Health and Wellness, Air Pollution Control District, Grasshoppers Distribution, Metro Office of Sustainability, U of L Office of Sustainability, Louisville Gas & Electric Co., the Owsley Brown Foundation, the Whippoorwill Family Foundation and Whole Foods.

Leslie Preston Meredith

With a degree in Soil Science from the University of Kentucky, Ms. Meredith teaches science and social studies at West Hardin Middle School in Cecilia, Kentucky and runs the school's Green Club. Her many projects include:

- Monitoring school buses for length of idling time while waiting for students to load and unload, resulting in a policy change from the school board that reduces idling time by 34 percent.
- A grant application to buy a watershed and soil erosion model so her students could learn about point and non-point source pollution and how it affects groundwater.
- Secured \$3,000 to start a native prairie restoration project in which students planted, mulched and watered trees for a mini-prairie on school grounds. Every three years, the parcel requires a controlled burn for maintenance. The three-acre prairie does

not have to be mowed, saving \$1,529 annually for the district.

- Provided guidance for students in the production of a public service announcement promoting recycling and energy savings cable TV.
- A Model Green and Healthy School certification for West Hardin, making it the only middle school in the state to be so certified.

In collaboration with the Superintendent and the Hardin County Solid Waste coordinator, she secured a recycling trailer located across from the school, resulting in easy access to recycling for local residents.

Partners: Nolin River Nut Tree Nursery, Roundstone Native Seed, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Resources, Hardin County Extension Office, Central Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, Nolin Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation, National Energy Education Development Project (NEED), Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAEE), National Farm-to-School Network, Hardin County Solid Waste Coordinator, WQXE radio of Elizabethtown and cable TV institutions Comcast, Brandenburg Telecom and Insight.

Terry Cook

As State Director of The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky, Terry Cook is known for partnerships and fundraising for the conservation of natural areas across the Commonwealth. His influence reaches from the Appalachian mountains in Eastern Kentucky

to the largest cave system in the world in Western Kentucky, and in the Jackson Purchase.

Cook has lobbied successfully for stronger conservation programs and tax credits for landowners who want to preserve and protect their natural areas, and develop a permanent funding source for this effort; to provide a blueprint for coordinating conservation growth. His goal is to conserve land in ways that promote clean air, water and soils to accommodate public appreciation and enjoyment.

Through his efforts, the Nature Conservancy has protected more than 46,000 acres of diverse habitat and landscapes across the Commonwealth. By leveraging the goodwill and resources of many partners in both private and public sectors, the Nature Conservancy has helped conserve more than 100,000 acres. The Big Rivers Wildlife Management Area and State Forest, for example, protects 11 square miles of marshes, meadows and forests at the confluence of the Ohio and Tradewater rivers.

Via the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative, Cook helped landowners restore and protect wetland habitats for wildlife with natural buffers that improves water quality locally and throughout the river basin.

The conservancy and its supporters funded a voter's survey that demonstrated strong support for investing in Kentucky's clean water and natural beauty. This effort resulted with Gov. Steve Beshear signing HB 281, a new law that enables non-profit land trust organizations to competitively apply for

land acquisition funds from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF).

Cook works on expanding funding and tax credits for conservation programs and land owners who enroll their land in conservation easements.

Partners: Natural Lands Trust, Sierra Club, League of Kentucky Sportsmen, Kentucky Horse Council, Kentucky Environmental Education Council, Kentucky Conservation Committee, Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest, Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission, Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board, PACE (Purchase of Agriculture Easements) Board, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources and Kentucky Division of Conservation, Conserve Kentucky Steering Committee

The Bluegrass Youth Sustainability Council

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton was one of the first to encourage the high school students in this group for their work. In 2012 in Lexington, Kentucky, Clinton was the keynote speaker at BYSC's Earth Day event. The organization's major projects to date:

- Partnered with local elementary schools to design, maintain and develop curriculum for campus rain gardens
- Conducted occupant behavior energy audits to provide feedback for Lexington Fayette Urban County Government and Fayette County Public Schools administrative buildings
- Installed 2 water bottle refilling stations in each public and private high school. A ticker

counter tracks how many plastic water bottles have been diverted from landfills—the count is 128,000

- Partnered with local elementary and high schools to participate in the USGBC Green Apple Day of Service
- Partnered with The Nature Conservancy to co-host a public forum on “Children Outdoors in the Media Age”
- Planted trees along Richmond Road with Keep Lexington Beautiful (Keep America Beautiful)

Partners: Kentucky American Water, Fayette County Public Schools Child Nutrition Services, Bluegrass Greensource, Sustainable Communities Network, University of Kentucky Student Sustainability Council, Keep Lexington Beautiful, Transylvania University Student Sustainability Council, Kentucky National Energy Education Development Project, USGBC Green Schools, Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools, Kentucky National Energy Education Development project, FCPS’s E=USE2 program.

Karin Ceralde

As a National Board Certified Teacher in biological sciences, Karin Ceralde teaches advanced placement courses to students at Shelby County High School.

Her students participate every year in the citizen-science project called the Great Backyard Bird Count in collaboration with the National Audubon Society. Its purpose is to collect data on wild birds, to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations, to learn

more about how the birds are doing and how to protect them and the environment we share.

Another favorite activity is the Commonwealth's Division of Conservation Essay & Art Contest. Through this assignment, students are encouraged to learn about stewardship of natural resources, then write essays for the general public about what they have learned for increased awareness.

Partners: Shelby County Conservation District, Kentucky Farm Bureau, National Association of Biology Teachers, National Science Teachers Association, Business and Professional Women—River City chapter, National Association of Women Business Owners, Raptor Rehabilitation of Kentucky, Inc. and Louisville Zoo.

The DuPont—Louisville Works Plant

This plant in West Louisville's Rubbertown is the world's only supplier of Vinyl Fluoride (VF), a chemical used in the manufacture of solar panels. In an effort to produce VF more efficiently, while reducing the plant's environmental footprint, DuPont introduced a new process in early 2012 to reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated by the manufacturing process.

In addition to reducing the quantity of hazardous waste generated, the project improved safety performance by eliminating potential occupational health exposure to employees working with the material.

Those responsible for this achievement include technical, operations, management and support personnel.

The objectives were to reduce the quantity of hazardous waste generated by the VF manufacturing process. This was achieved. Prior operations would have generated 30,000 to 40,000 pounds of hazardous waste annually. Thanks to the new process, the quantity of hazardous waste generated is expected to be less than 10,000 pounds every 2 to 3 years. Also as a result of the new process, the targeted hazardous waste stream was reduced from 32,000 pounds in 2011 to 7,000 pounds in 2012 and zero pounds in 2013. This hazardous waste stream was reduced by greater than 90 percent.

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Kurt Mason

Cleaning up a watershed is no easy feat, but that is what Kurt Mason has pledged to do in focusing attention on Beargrass Creek in Louisville. An advocate for land preservation and environmental education, he uses his expertise in the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to zero in on reducing harmful runoff.

Under Mason's guidance, workshops and educational forums have been held on natural buffers and vital techniques. His goal has been to influence decisions at the level of local government to improve water quality and to help citizens understand how their choices affect the watershed.

His leadership spawned technical breakthroughs in the watershed, including:

- the development of no mow zones
- several linear conservation easements held by city government
- initial efforts with green infrastructure, including bioengineered streambank restoration and slope stabilization projects

Mason promotes placing land into conservation easements and stakeholder groups to build citizen involvement. In 1990, he helped bring some of Kentucky's most sensitive and precious land resources under the protection of conservation entities through his work with the Nature Conservancy of Kentucky. In Jefferson and Oldham counties, 1,000 acres have been protected due to his work with private landowners.

Partners: Oldham Ahead, Inc., Louisville/Jefferson County Environmental Trust, Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest Trustee Board, West Buechel Urban Agriculture Advisory Board, Land Protection Fund Committee, Curry's Fork Watershed Technical Committee, Metropolitan Sewer District's Wet Weather Team Stakeholder Group, Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District, Oldham County Soil and Water Conservation District, Bullitt County Soil and Water Conservation District, Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Louisville Zoo, Jefferson County Public Schools, Archdiocese of Louisville, Fuller, Mossbarger, Scott & May Consulting Engineers.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Gordon Garner

Improved sanitation leads to improved public health. That's why civil engineer Gordon Garner has devoted a 32-year career to the engineering and design of public works for the benefit of the general public. He served on both EPA Wet Weather Advisory Groups developing a draft Combined Sewer Overflow Policy and criteria for Sanitary Sewer Overflows

He is a seasoned public works and utility management executive, with considerable experience as facilitator and coordinator of complex programs, involving federal, state and local government staff, stakeholders, regulators and the public. He also has extensive experience drafting combined sewer overflow policy and understands the requirements needed to reach consensus on consent decrees and meet aggressive regulatory schedules.

As Executive Director of the Metropolitan Sewer District for 18 years, Garner oversaw a sewer expansion program, adding up to 5,000 new customers each year. Other achievements include:

- Stormwater and flood protection utility service with over \$1 billion invested in capital improvements
- A world-class computer mapping/geographic information system (LOJIC) , an important tool for all city and county planning activities

- Participation and sponsorship of the CERES (Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economics) Principles and a Greenways Program which incorporate sound environmental principles in all MSD (Metropolitan Sewer District) projects
- Built three new wastewater plants and capacity/performance upgrades at four other major wastewater plants

He has served on many boards and commissions and helped draft and secure legislative approval for design/build in Kentucky in order to pursue a solid pelletization facility, and the Floyd's Fork Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Garner has been selected as a Top Ten Public Works Leader and Life Member by the American Public Works Association (APWA). He is now vice president of the water business group of CH2M HILL engineering firm.

Congratulations to all of our winners.

Closing Remarks

Arnita Gadson, Executive Director

Pictures and reception immediately following the program.

Nominations for 2015 Earth Day Awards recognizing environmental stewardship

The annual awards are presented to individuals and institutions who have demonstrated deep concern, activism and achievement to improve the environment. Citizens and organizations statewide are encouraged to submit names of champions of clean air, clean water, pollution control and other elements vital to healthy ecosystems. Honors will be bestowed in celebration of Earth Day in April 2015.

Nomination forms for EQC's Earth Day Awards can be found on the web at <http://eqc.ky.gov> or by calling Janet Pinkston at 502-564-2674 or e-mailing Janet.Pinkston@ky.gov

Nomination forms can be sent electronically or by mail to:

Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission
Energy and Environment Cabinet
500 Mero St.
12th floor, Capital Plaza Tower
Frankfort, KY 40601